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S/N 09/624,955

MAY 04 2004

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	MURATA	Examiner:	T. LAMB
Serial No.:	09/624,955	Group Art Unit:	2622
Filed:	JULY 25, 2000	Docket No.:	10873.108USD3
Title:	DIGITAL COPIER WITH IMAGE SCANNER APPARATUS AND OFFLINE IMAGE DATA AND CONTROL DATA INTERFACE		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.6(d): I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 4, 2004.

By: *Andrea L Endris*  
Name: Andrea Endris

**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on February 4, 2004. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 31, 32, 34, 39, 40, 41, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagashima (US 4,719,516) in view of Nishimura (US 6,151,445). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Nagashima fails to disclose or suggest "means for retrieving print control parameters and image data stored in a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the means for retrieving," as required by claim 31, or "retrieving print control parameters and image data stored in a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the printer," as required by claim 39. Nishimura fails to remedy the deficiencies of Nagashima. Nagashima discloses in column 1, lines 31-40 a prior art embodiment in which a data recorded camera stores in an IC card information relating to photographing and a print order, which information is required for

conducting printing out in the laboratory. Nishimura fails to disclose or suggest that image data is recorded in the IC card. The object of Nishimura is to bring a film and the IC card to a laboratory to conduct optimum development using the information relating to photographing conditions and the like that are stored in the IC card.

Furthermore, Nishimura discloses at column 15, lines 1-6 that index image data generated by scanning a film and processing the obtained data and identification information of a film cartridge are stored in an IC memory card. The generation and storage of index image data make impossible an objective of Nishimura that when a film cartridge and an IC memory card are loaded, particularly in the case where the identification information of the loaded film cartridge agrees with the identification information on a film cartridge that is stored in the IC memory card, and index image readout from the IC memory card is displayed on a monitor. In the case where the identification information of the loaded film cartridge does not agree with the identification information on the film cartridge that is stored in the IC memory card, the film in the loaded film cartridge is scanned and the obtained data is processed to generate an index image and a display of the same on the monitor. No other disclosure by Nishimura is relevant to the limitations of claims 31 and 39 at issue. Therefore, Applicant submits that Nishimura fails to disclose storing of print control parameters and image data in a removable storage medium. Thus, Nagashima and Nishimura fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claims 31 and 39 and the claims that depend from them.

Claims 33 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagashima in view of Nishimura and further in view of Sakata (US 5,105,284). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, Nagashima and Nishimura fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claims 31 and 39. Sakata fails to remedy the deficiencies of Nagashima and Nishimura as they relate to claims 31 and 39. Therefore, claims 33 and 42 are allowable for at least the reason they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 35-38 and 44-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagashima in view of Nishimura and Itoh (US 5,923,437). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

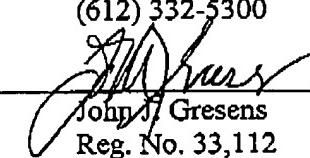
Nagashima and Itoh fail to disclose or suggest "means for retrieving print control parameters and image data from a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the means for retrieving," as required by claims 35 and 37, or "retrieving print control parameters and image data from a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the printer," as required by claims 44 and 46. Nishimura fails to remedy the deficiencies of Nagashima and Itoh for at least the reasons stated above concerning the deficiencies of Nishimura related to claims 31 and 39. Nishimura fails to disclose or suggest a removable storage medium that includes print control parameters and image data. Therefore, Nagashima, Nishimura, and Itoh fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claims 35, 37, 44, and 46, and the claims that depend from them.

In view of the above, Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 4, 2004

  
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